



**WASHINGTON DEPARTMENT
OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
FINAL DETERMINATION OF
NON-SIGNIFICANCE
AUGUST 09, 2005**

State of Washington

DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

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**(DRAFT) WILD TURKEY MANAGEMENT PLAN
ADDENDUM TO FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT (FEIS)
DATED: NOVEMBER 27, 2002**

Name of EIS: GAME MANAGEMENT PLAN JULY 2003-JUNE 2009

Description of EIS: The focus of the FEIS was to address game management planning in a comprehensive approach, establishing goals, objectives and strategies for managing game species. This approach (plan) would meet the public's expectations and priorities, while achieving a balance between opposing viewpoints, carry out agency mandates and look at strategies that would help resolve issues. The time line of the plan, as well as the issues (impact assessments) and mitigation strategies were analyzed.

It was determined that a six-year plan would allow for implementation of various objectives, while still being flexible to allow for changing conditions, research results necessitating new strategies and public acceptability.

Issues were identified based on extensive public outreach. Objectives were developed in order to draft strategies (mitigation) to resolve identified issues. These issues included the following:

- Scientific/professional management of hunted wildlife
- Public support for hunting as a management tool
- Hunter ethics and fair chase
- Private lands programs and hunter access
- Tribal hunting
- Predator management
- Hunting season regulations
- Game damage and nuisance
- Species specific management issues

Proponent: Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

Location of EIS: Copies can be obtained at the WDFW headquarters office in Olympia (Wildlife Management Program, 5th Floor, Natural Resources Building 1111 Washington Street SE)

or downloaded from the WDFW website at the following address:

http://wdfw.wa.gov/wlm/game/management/gmp_eis.htm

Copies of this EIS have been included on the CD included in the original distribution package.

Lead Agency: Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

The lead agency is providing updated information on this project which may be of interest to other agencies or the public. The updated information provided below does not substantially change the analysis of significant impacts in the existing EIS.

The original Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) dated November 27, 2002, Page 129 Wild Turkey section should be modified to reflect the following additional information:

Washington State Management Plan for Wild Turkey August 2005-June 2010

Wild turkeys have been introduced into Washington since the early 1900's and have been classified as a game bird since the early 1930's. Since 1960, when the first wild-trapped turkeys were introduced into the state from Arizona, New Mexico, and Wyoming, turkeys have maintained naturally reproducing populations in much of the forested portions of eastern and southwestern Washington. Through time, wild turkeys have been managed on a year-to-year basis without a formal plan to guide management activities. This proposal will create the first statewide management plan for wild turkeys in Washington.

The overall objective of this proposal is to document past management activities and provide clear direction on future management strategies for wild turkeys in Washington. Specific management objectives identified in the plan include:

- Improve wild turkey population monitoring by conducting harvest and/or non-harvest surveys on a yearly basis.
- Conduct yearly management activities designed to establish and manage self-sustaining populations of wild turkeys in the most suitable areas of Washington.
- Initiate, participate in, or support research projects that increase our knowledge of wild turkeys in western habitats.
- Implement effective nuisance/damage management strategies to help resolve issues as they arise.
- Conduct habitat improvements in key wild turkey management areas to accomplish multiple goals including addressing nuisance issues, improving public recreational opportunities, and improving habitat conditions for multiple species.
- Increase fall hunting opportunities where existing nuisance issues warrant expanded hunting opportunity.
- Develop a set of criteria that, when met, would direct a change in season structure or hunting opportunity.
- Increase the number of acres of private land available for public turkey hunting by 10% within the wild turkey management area.
- Create educational pamphlets and news releases describing past management activities and future management objectives on a yearly basis.
- Concentrate efforts on illegal harvest, public education, and landowner relations during appropriate times of the year.

The existing conditions and significant planned population changes are detailed in the proposed plan. The existing conditions are described extensively in Chapter Two. Impact assessment is identified under the Population Management heading in Chapter Three. Existing research does not show that wild turkeys have a significant population level impact on plants or other animals or birds.

Based on the original Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and the updated information provided in this addendum, the lead agency has determined that a new threshold determination is not warranted.

Included with this original distribution of the Addendum is a CD with the following documents:

- Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Game Management Plan
- Checklist for (DRAFT) Wild Turkey Management Plan
- (DRAFT) Wild Turkey Management Plan

In addition each of these documents are posted on the Washington State Fish and Wildlife SEPA website: <http://wdfw.wa.gov/hab/sepa/sepa.htm>

The Draft Wild Turkey Management Plan is a proposed amendment to the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife Game Management Plan Environmental Impact Statement. Copies of this plan can be obtained at the WDFW headquarters office in Olympia (Wildlife Management Program, 5th floor, Natural Resources Building 1111 Washington Street SE) or downloaded from the WDFW website at the following addresses:

http://wdfw.wa.gov/wlm/game/management/gmp_eis.htm or
<http://wdfw.wa.gov/hab/sepa/sepa.htm>

The first draft of the Wild Turkey Management Plan was released on April 11th for a 30-day public review period. At the time of release, WDFW mailed a notification to over 800 individuals and organizations, including those listed in Table 1 of the checklist. In addition, the first draft was provided to the Upland Game Advisory Committee (a WDFW advisory committee made up of interested citizens appointed by the Director) for their review and comment. It was also posted to the WDFW web site and a WDFW news release was sent out to all Washington media outlets (print, radio and television) on April 13. Comments were received and addressed. Changes were made to the plan based on the comments received. The current draft is now posted to the WDFW web site and there will be a news release announcing a 30-day review period that will be sent out to all media outlets and a postcard sent to those who received notice of the first draft. The proposed implementation dates of the Wild Turkey Management Plan are August 2005 through June 2010.

This Addendum is issued under WAC 197-11-600(c); the lead agency is seeking public comments on this **Draft plan** and will **not act on this proposal for 30 days** from the date of issue below. Comments must be submitted by: **August 8, 2005**

The Turkey Management Plan will become final after the close of this comment period. Public comments will be considered responded to and/or incorporated into the Final Turkey Management Plan. The Final Turkey Management Plan will be posted on the WDFW Game Management website: <http://wdfw.wa.gov/huntcorn.htm>

Responsible Official: Teresa A. Eturaspe

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DATE OF ISSUE: July 7, 2005 **SIGNATURE:**

